Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /115 W
----------042127 162330Z /15
R 160712Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9517
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2554

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR TOPICS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 2238; (B) STATE 038738

1. HEAVY WATER. DR. SETHNA RAISED THE INQUIRY REPORTED IN REFTEL (A) ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. SETHNA ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT OR QUESTIONS THE RESPONSE I GAVE HIM ALONG THE LINES LAID DOWN IN REFTEL (B). THE NEXT STEP, WE AGREED, WILL BE FOR HIM TO DRAW UP A PAPER SPELLING OUT SPECIFICALLY IN WHAT AMOUNTS AND FOR WHAT FACILITIES INDIA MAY WANT U.S. HEAVY WATER. WE MUST EXPECT THAT CON GEN COURTNEY WILL BE RECEIVING SUCH A PAPER FROM SETHNA SHORTLY.

2. RENEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT: DRS. SETHNA AND J.C. SHAH EACH RAISED WITH COURTNEY AND ME YESTERDAY THE QUESTION OF HOW WE EXPECT TO GO ABOUT THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE TARAPUR AGREEMENT CALLED FOR BY OUR NEW NONPROLIFERATION LEGIS-LATION. OUR REPLY OF COURSE WAS THAT WE WERE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

3. TARAPUR FUEL (HYDERABAD SITUATION): DR. SHAH TOLD COURTNEY THAT THEY HAVE RUN OUT OF FRESH UF 6 AT HYDERABAD
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AND ARE ONCE AGAIN OPERATING THERE ON SCRAP ONLY. A SECOND DEVELOPMENT AT HYDERABAD IS A STRIKE IN THE PLANT BROUGHT ABOUT BY COMPETITION BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST LABOR UNIONS. DR. SETHNA RECEIVED NEWS OF THE STRIKE BY PHONE WHILE WE WERE AT TARAPUR YESTERDAY. HE SAYS THE STRIKE WILL CERTAINLY LAST AT LEAST UNTIL IMPENDING STATE ELECTIONS, FEBRUARY 25. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT HE

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WAS EXPERIENCING LABOR PROBLEMS IN 6 OR 8 OF THE AEC'S
FACILITIES OUT OF A POSSIBLE 14. (I AM NOT PRECISELY SURE
OF THESE LAST NUMBERS, BUT DR. SETHNA IS CLEARLY TROUBLED
BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH LABOR UNREST IS INTERFERING WITH
THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY HERE. AND HE IS
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DO MUCH ABOUT
THE PROBLEM.)
GOHEEN

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